over India and Government extended financial support to some Institutions of repute for conducting such seminars.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Freedom Fighters' pension cases

*205. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of cases of freedom fighters' pension pending as on 31st March, 1990;

(b) what was the number of such pending cases from Maharashtra;

(c) what are the main reasons for the delay in granting pensions to freedom fighters; and

(d) what steps are being taken to expedite the clearance of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) Out of the applications received by the Ministry of Home Affairs by the due dates, only 284 cases of freedom fighters' pension were pending on 31-3-1990.

(b) The number of cases from Maharashtra was 12.

(c) and (d) In 254 cases, the recommendations of the Non-Official Screening Committee, constituted to scrutinise applications received from the participants of Arya Samaj Movement, 1938-39 were received only recently. In the remaining 30 cases, clarifications from the State Governments concerned are awaited. They are being reminded regularly.

Construction of a T.V. studio at Bhubaneswar

*206. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in the construction of a T.V. Studio at Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction of that T.V. Studio; and

(d) by when it is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) There has been some delay in establishment of the T.V. Studio Centre at Bhubaneswar caused initially by the need to reinvite tenders in respect of execution of civil works and later because of the inadequate availability of cement. Nevertheless, the project is now in its final stage of completion. Work of airconditioning has been awarded. Orders for the Studio equipment have been placed and supply of part equipment already received at site. Whereas efforts are on to operationalise the Studio Centre with limited facilities during the current financial year, the project is expected to become fully operational during 1991-92.

Pak infiltrators hand in Gujarat riots

*207. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistani infiltrators had a hand in the recent in Gujarat; and

(b) what was the number of persons who have been arrested under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act from 1st January, 1990 till 15th April, 1990 in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Investigations in the recent incidents of communal violance in the State of Gujarat have not

revealed involvement of Pakistani infiltrators.

(b) 837.

Video and Cable piracy in the country

*208. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to curb video and cable piracy in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if no steps have been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(c) Does not aries.

Statement

The Government have taken several steps to curb video piracy and piracy through cable TV in the country. Some of these steps are:—

(i) The Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Copyright Act, 1957 were amended in 1984 to provide for enhanced and minimum punishments (both imprisonment and fine) for offences relating to provisions of these Acts.

(ii) As enforcement of the anti-video piracy laws is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, the Ministry of I&B have written to all State Governments for enforcing the various provisions of these laws with vigour.

(iii) A Committee constituted by the Ministry of I&B on 14-2-89 to study the problems of Film Industry and making suitable recommendation to Central/State Governments for resolution of their problems, made several recommendations to combat video piracy. These recommendations were also considered in the conference of State Ministers of Information and Cinematography held in New Delhi on 16—18 April, 1990 and those concerning State Governments were accepted for adoption and implementation.

(iv) In the Conference of State Ministers of Information and Cinematography held on 16—18 April, 1990 it was recommended *inter-alia* that a small group consisting of representatives of the Central Government/State Governments would review anti-video piracy laws and would prepare a omni-bus draft Bill to deal effectively with video and infringemen of the Copyright Act 1957 and Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(v) In the budget proposals for 1990-91, release prints of feature films have been exempted from payment of excise duty. This would enable the producer/exhibitors to strike a large number of prints for simultaneous release in a number of cinema theatres which would help in combating video piracy.

(vi) India has signed the International Treaty on registration of audio-visual works which aims at *inter-alia* enhancing the legal security in such works.

(vii) The Ministry of I&B have constituted an inter-departmental Committee for studying the various aspects of the cable TV networks and antenna system in the country. Besides, the Committee referred to in (iii) above, made the following recommendations to combat piracy through cable TV:—

(i) The Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 may need to be reviewed in the light of the changes necessitated by the video technology;